11

NATSUMI ANDO

Something's Wrong With Us

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11

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STORY & CHARACTERS

While Tsubaki and Nao visited a hot spring inn to collaborate on a wagashi job, a distraught Shiori lied to the proprietress, claiming she was pregnant with Tsubaki's child. Although the proprietress was elated to hear the news, Tsubaki refused Shiori, explaining that he will never return her feelings.

Meanwhile, Nao tries to reveal to the old master that she is Itsuki's biological daughter—the rightful heir to Kogetsuan—just as the old master collapses.

Nao Hanaoka

A *wagashi* confectioner and the owner of Hanagasumi.

Finds meaning in life by making *wagashi* that connect her to her late mother.

Tsubaki Takatsuki

The heir to the historic *wagashi* shop Kogetsuan. Proposed to Nao without realizing that she is his childhood friend.

Tsubaki used to call her "Sakura" back when they were children. Seeing the color red gives her severe heart palpitations.

He grew to actually love Nao and was shocked when he learned her true identity.

His eyes sometimes fail him due to the fire.

Takigawa

Helps Nao with Hanagasumi. His whole family were fans of Nao's mother's sweets.

Shiori

Tsubaki's former fiancée. She rescued Tsubaki from the Kogetsuan fire, which left a scar on her face.

The Proprietress

Tsubaki's mother. She lost her husband (Tsubaki's father) 18 years ago, and has been desperate to make Tsubaki the head of Kogetsuan ever since.

Old Master Takatsuki

Tsubaki's grandfather. The head of Kogetsuan. He's been hospitalized since the fire.

Chapter 50 *The Moon Filling Up the Sky*

Thank you for picking up *Something's Wrong With Us* volume 11.
I wrote in the previous volume that I finally got a kimono of my own, but I haven't gotten a chance to wear it since. ♡
If only it was easy for me to put it on by myself, I think I might want to work on this manga wearing a kimono...
It's mainly because when I'm drawing characters in kimonos, I always get confused about how they're supposed to look, and I end up having to throw mine on over my clothes to check over and over again. ♡
I'm always a little frustrated knowing that it would be more efficient if I could just work in my kimono...
Speaking of the previous volume, I had the chance to be a part of a Twitter campaign to commemorate the tenth volume, where selected winners would receive signed copies of original drawings of their favorite scenes. It was interesting seeing which scenes were popular.
The Tanabata scene in volume 5 was a clear favorite.
I guess scenes where characters make an emotional connection are really memorable. I hope you will discover a new favorite scene in this volume, too. ☆

–Natsumi Ando

TSUBAKI...

GASP
はっ…

OLD MASTER!

I'LL DO IT!

GET AN AMBULANCE! HURRY!!

GRAND-FATHER!

THRUST

THRUST

I WON'T LET YOU DIE...

I SWEAR, I WON'T...!

FATHER...!!

YOU...

WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?

THE POLICE!

SOMEONE NEEDS TO CALL THE POLICE!

HF...

GRAND-FATHER.

D...

DON'T...

URG...

HAAH...

KHHK!

KHHK!

THIS...

...IS NOTH-ING.

DON'T MAKE...

...ANY CALLS.

FOR NAO

WISH

!

STO—

RIP

RIP

RIP

RIP

GIVE THAT BACK!

G...

MY PROOF...

THE PRECIOUS EVIDENCE THAT MOMMA LEFT ME...

FATHER!

VSH

...THAT PROVES I'M THE RIGHTFUL HEIR OF THIS HOUSE-HOLD...

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW WORRIED I'VE BEEN ALL THIS TIME...

AND YOU'RE BACK TO YOUR OLD SELF, AS WELL.

OH, FATHER...

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT...

...

LET ME...

...SPEAK WITH THIS GIRL, ALONE.

...!

WH—

B...

BUT WHY WOULD YOU WANT—

JUST DO AS I SAY.

TSUBAKI-SAN...!

SST

...

YOU GET OUT, TOO.

BUT, FATHER...

I SAID, GET OUT.

WHAT...

...DID YOU DO THIS TIME?

TUNK

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE HE RE-GAINED CONSCIOUS-NESS?

HOW LONG?

I KNOW YOU MANIPULATED QUITE A NUMBER OF THINGS...

WHY ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THIS NOW?

...WHEN THE FIRE HAPPENED THREE YEARS AGO.

I'VE ONLY EVER THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT'S BEST FOR KOGETSUAN.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU HEARD ABOUT THE FIRE...

...BUT REMEMBER THAT, NO MATTER WHAT.

TSUBAKI.

THERE'S NO QUESTION THAT YOU'RE ITSUKI-SAN'S SON.

...YOU TRIED TO KEEP YOUR PROMISE WITH NAO-SAN.

DURING THAT FIRE, THREE YEARS AGO...

...WHEN I FOUND YOU ON THE FLOOR...

...AS SMOKE FILLED THE HOUSE...

THAT DAY...

TSUBAKI-SAN!

NA...

...O.

...O.

...!

NAO...

...G...

I HAVE...

TO GET BACK...

...GET BACK...

...TO...

...NAO...

THE SAME WORDS. LIKE YOU WERE POSSESSED...

OVER AND OVER...

"NAO..."

...

THEN...

...THE HEIRLOOM TOOLS I SUPPOSEDLY SAVED FROM THE FIRE...

CLATTER

CLATTER

CLATTER

CLATTER

KRAK

...!

IS SOMEONE STILL IN HERE?

HEY!

THE PROPRI-ETRESS...

HE MUST REALLY TREASURE THEM...

YES. HE DIDN'T EVEN HESITATE.

THEN...

...THE YOUNG MASTER WENT IN TO SAVE THESE TOOLS...?

THANK GOODNESS WE DIDN'T LOSE THEM.

TSUBAKI-SAN...

...FOR THE SAKE OF THE SHOP...

HE RISKED HIS LIFE...

WE SHOULD DO WHAT WE CAN FOR KOGETSUAN, TOO.

BUT... THOSE TOOLS...

YOU'RE SO RIGHT...

I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND, SHIORI-SAN.

IT'S THE KIND OF THING A PERSON IN CHARGE NEEDS TO DO.

THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR A BUSINESS.

TSUBAKI SAVED THESE.

I'M DOING THIS FOR TSUBAKI.

AND...

...WHEN I HEARD THAT YOU HAD BROKEN UP WITH NAO-SAN...

...THERE WAS A VOICE DEEP INSIDE ME.

IT WHISPERED THAT MAYBE I HAD A CHANCE.

MAYBE YOUR AFFECTION WOULD TURN TO ME SOMEDAY...

SO I DECIDED TO KEEP WHAT I SAW A SECRET...

I'M SO SORRY...

I JUST TOLD MY-SELF...

...THAT I WAS DOING IT FOR YOU.

...I KEPT IT FROM YOU FOR SO LONG.

I HAVE NO MEMORY OF WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE FIRE.

BUT I'D BEEN SO OBSESSED WITH KOGETSUAN'S HEIRLOOM TOOLS...

...THAT I NEVER DOUBTED THAT I HAD UNCONSCIOUSLY GONE TO SAVE THEM...

COULD THERE HAVE BEEN...

IF I HAD KNOWN THE TRUTH, WOULD ANYTHING HAVE CHANGED?

...A FUTURE FOR US?

I'M SAKURA!

NO.

THINGS AREN'T...

...THAT SIMPLE FOR NAO AND ME.

ARE YOU...

I REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD GO TO THE HOSPITAL...

...REALLY *THAT* SAKURA?

SAKURA...

NOD

W...

PLEASE TASTE THIS CONFECTION I MADE.

WAGASHI.

FOR NAO

...

WHAT'S YOUR PROOF?

I...

...KNEW...

...

...HAD A WOMAN HE'D ALWAYS LOVED.

...THAT ITSUKI...

SHE HAS NO FUTURE.

YOU DON'T EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO MARRY SOMEONE LIKE THAT, DO YOU?

A CLASSMATE FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL?

...SO THAT HE COULD MARRY KYOKO.

YET I SPLIT THEM APART...

I NEVER EVEN KNEW HER NAME OR WHAT SHE LOOKED LIKE.

I DIDN'T KNOW THEY NEVER GAVE UP...

...AND CONTINUED THEIR RELATIONSHIP...

...OR THAT SHE HAD ACTUALLY WORKED AT THE SHOP AS A CONFECTIONER FOR SEVERAL MONTHS...

...UNTIL A WHILE AFTER BOTH OF THEM PASSED AWAY.

THE HOUSE DETERMINES WHO THE HEIR MARRIES.

IN OUR WORLD, THAT'S STILL THE CUSTOM.

...BETWEEN LOVE AND HIS DUTIES.

HE MUST HAVE BEEN TORN FOR SO LONG...

...MY SON CARED DEEPLY ABOUT BOTH ME AND KOGETSUAN.

GROWING UP WITHOUT HIS MOTHER...

IF ONLY I HAD AGREED TO THEIR MARRIAGE.

BOTH ITSUKI...

... AND YOUR MOTHER...

...MIGHT STILL BE HERE, LIVING A HAPPY LIFE TOGETHER.

I CAUSED ALL OF THIS.

CAN YOU FORGIVE ME?

MOMMA!

LET ME SEE HER!

OVER...

...AND OVER AGAIN.

EVER SINCE THAT MOMENT WHEN I WAS SIX YEARS OLD...

...I'VE DREAMED OF WHAT COULD'VE BEEN.

I CAN'T...

...FORGIVE YOU.

BUT...

YOUR MOTHER WILL DIE A SECOND TIME!

BUT...

I DON'T WANT...

...TO NEGATE MOMMA'S FEELINGS.

"WHENEVER YOU TALKED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF KOGETSUAN..."

"...I REALLY LOVED THAT."

...I WANT THIS SHOP.

...BECAUSE I KNOW BOTH OF MY PARENTS TREASURED IT.

I WANT...

...TO MAKE SWEETS HERE.

Sign: Kogetsuan

...

I'M SORRY,

BUT COULD YOU LEND ME A HAND?

TAKE ME TO TSUBAKI...

PARTICULARLY...

...*THAT* SAKURA* YOKAN...

*The Japanese cherry.

...MANAGING THE SHOP ON MY BEHALF?

...WERE YOU ABLE TO CHANGE ANYTHING...

WHILE I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL...

...

I JUST WANTED TO WATCH YOU DIE.

IT'S IRONIC...

...TO VISIT AND CARE FOR ME.

YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER CAME...

IT'S SOMETHING I WAS TOLD AGAIN AND AGAIN FROM CHILDHOOD...

THAT RULE HAS BEEN KEPT FOR GENERATIONS.

ONLY A TRUE HEIR...

...RELATED BY BLOOD, CAN INHERIT KOGETSUAN.

...TO FIGURE OUT WHO BEARS THE RIGHT.

AND NOW...

...ALL IT WOULD TAKE IS A SIMPLE TEST...

BUT...

...IS THAT REALLY THE CORRECT THING TO DO?

SHOULD I UPHOLD THAT RULE AT ALL COSTS...?

AT THE END OF THE MONTH ...

ON DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST, NEW YEAR'S EVE...

...THE DAY OF THE *JOYASAI*...

...TSU-BAKI.

SAKURA.

...I WANT EACH OF YOU TO MAKE ME A CONFECTION.

THE ONE WHO MANAGES TO MAKE THAT SWEET...

...AND MAKES MY SOUL TREMBLE...

WHICH-EVER...

...IS MORE DELICIOUS...

THAT PERSON...

...WILL INHERIT KOGETSUAN.

Chapter 51 *Myself*

"WHOEVER MAKES THE MORE DELICIOUS SWEET THAT MAKES MY SOUL TREMBLE..."

WILL

"...WILL INHERIT KOGETSUAN."

CLATTER

WILL

THIS DECISION GOES AGAINST THE WILL OF MY ANCESTORS...

WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO...

...WILL NEVER BE FORGIVEN. EVEN IN THE AFTERLIFE.

SIMMER

SIMMER

SIMMER

I ONLY HAVE TWENTY DAYS UNTIL THE *JOYASAI*.

I NEED TO COME UP WITH A SWEET THAT SPEAKS TO THE OLD MASTER'S SOUL BY THEN.

NAO-CHAN.

ISN'T IT PAST TIME TO OPEN THE SHOP...?

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO SERVE CUSTOMERS.

I'M SORRY.

I HAVE TO WIN.

MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE SAID I DO FORGIVE HIM...

CAN YOU FORGIVE ME?

BUT THERE'S NO WAY I COULD HAVE TOLD SUCH A LIE.

SQUEEZE

I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.

...

I HAVE TO MAKE KOGETSUAN MINE.

IF I DON'T WIN NOW, I'LL LOSE THAT CHANCE FOREVER.

GET OUT.

I REFUSE TO EAT ANYTHING YOU BRING.

SO YOU'LL GET BETTER SOONER.

ALL OF YOUR FAVORITE DISHES,

FATHER.

I BROUGHT YOU YOUR MEAL.

WHOEVER MAKES THE SUPERIOR *WAGASHI* WILL TAKE OVER THE SHOP.

IT'S SIMPLE AND OBVIOUS.

MY DECISION IS FINAL.

...

SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF THE WOMAN WHO MURDERED ITSUKI-SAN.

DID YOU FORGET?

I SACRIFICED EVERYTHING AND DEVOTED MY LIFE TO THIS SHOP.

TUNK

WHAT WILL BECOME OF ME IF THAT WRETCHED GIRL WINS?

NGH...!

SOMETHING...

UM...

MAY I TALK TO YOU FOR A MOMENT, MA'AM?

KRK

I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING.

YOU'RE JUST WHO I WANTED TO SEE.

DO YOU MIND IF I GET SHIRAFUJIYA TO MAKE YOUR *SHIROMUKU*?

WE SHOULD HAVE THE WEDDING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IT'S ABOUT THAT...

THAT'S RIGHT.

SHIORI-SAN...

I STILL HAVE HASEYA-SAN ON MY SIDE.

WHAT?

WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?

I-I...

I CAN'T MARRY TSUBAKI-SAN.

WELL, BECAUSE...

WHAT...?

BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT ACTUALLY PREGNANT?

I'M SO SORRY.

I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO MY FATHE—

SHIORI-SAN.

I...

YOU...

...KNEW?

IT'S FINE.

IT DOESN'T MATTER.

YOU CAN FIGURE THAT ALL OUT LATER.

ALL YOU NEED IS A CHILD, SHIORI-SAN.

IF NOT WITH TSUBAKI, ANYONE ELSE WILL DO.

...

WHAT...?

B...

BUT...

A CHILD...

REMEMBER WHAT I SAID?

HAVING A CHILD CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING.

JUST GET PREGNANT.

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHOSE CHILD IT IS.

YOU HAVE TO DO WHAT IT TAKES.

YOU'VE ALREADY STEPPED ONTO A PATH FILLED WITH THORNS.

JUST LEAVE THE REST TO ME.

DON'T WORRY.

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

I PROMISE I'LL PROTECT YOU, SHIORI-SAN.

YOU CAN BE HAPPY...

...AS LONG AS YOU GET PREGNANT.

N...

PLEASE, SHIORI-SAN.

STO—

I CARE ABOUT YOU LIKE YOU'RE MY OWN DAUGHTER...

BUT WHY?!

MA'AM...

NO!

I CAN'T LIE LIKE THAT ANYMORE!

VWISH

...SO PLEA—

SHIORI-SAN.

WILL YOU GO HELP WITH THE SHOP?

TAK
TAK

WAIT, SHIORI-SAN!

...DRAGGING OTHER PEOPLE INTO THIS.

I WANT YOU TO STOP...

CAN YOU REALLY MAKE A CONFECTION THAT WILL MOVE YOUR GRANDFATHER'S HEART?

...

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT YOUR CHANCES?

...AND NOW WE MIGHT LOSE KOGETSUAN, TOO...?

I WON'T HAVE IT...

THAT WOMAN TOOK ITSUKI-SAN FROM ME...

WHAT IF HE CHOOSES THE ONE THAT WRETCHED GIRL MAKES?!

SHE'S THE ONE WHO MURDERED HIM.

NAO DOESN'T THINK HER MOTHER'S GUILTY.

...

I HEARD WHAT SHE SAID...

...IN ITSUKI-SAN'S ARMS.

I HEARD HER!

BUT SHE NEVER CONFESSED TO THE CRIME.

ITSUKI-SAN...

...WOULD YOU CONSIDER DYING WITH ME?

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

WITH YOU, I'D GO ANYWHERE.

I'LL GET A KNIFE READY.

A KNIFE THAT WILL UNITE US FOREVER.

I LOVE YOU.

SHE GOT SCARED WHEN THE MOMENT CAME.

IT'S OBVIOUS.

BUT THAT WOMAN...

...RAN AWAY AT THE LAST MINUTE.

SHE REASONED THAT SHE COULDN'T LEAVE HER LITTLE GIRL BEHIND...

...AND USED PARENTAL LOVE AS A CONVENIENT EXCUSE.

SHE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE KILLED HIM!

SHE BETRAYED ITSUKI-SAN!

I'LL MAKE SURE OF *THAT*...

I WON'T LET HER...

...HAVE HER WAY.

DON'T DO ANYTHING.

NOT TO SHIORI-SAN,

OR TO NAO.

I PROMISE I'LL BE THE ONE TO WIN...

...ON THE NIGHT OF THE *JOYASAI*.

...O

NAO...

!!

MOMMA?

MOMMA!

HELP ME, NAO!

MOMMA!

MOMMA!!

HELP!

...

GASP

はっ

Sorry,
we are
closed for
the day.

Hanagasumi

CLOSED TODAY, TOO.

Sorry, we are closed for the day.

Hanagasumi

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED?

THAT'S TOO BAD.

NO.

THESE WON'T DO AT ALL.

...

SWEETER, MAYBE?

NO...

MORE FLAVOR?

SHOULD I PRESERVE MORE TEXTURE?

WHAT ABOUT THE PASTE ...?

THE PASTE...

NAO-CHAN!!

I...I'M FINE. I JUST TRIPPED, THAT'S ALL...

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

TAKIGAWA-SAN...

I-I CAN'T.

I STILL HAVEN'T MADE ANYTHING, AND I NEED TO HURRY.

I KNOW YOU HAVEN'T BEEN SLEEPING AT ALL LATELY.

LET'S TAKE A BREAK, NAO-CHAN.

"ANY-THING"?

I...

I HAVE NO IDEA...

...WHAT KIND OF SWEET I SHOULD MAKE.

I CAN'T SEE...

WHAT SHOULD I MAKE...

...TO REACH THE OLD MASTER'S HEART?

NO MATTER WHAT I MAKE...

...I HAVEN'T THE FAINTEST IDEA.

...A SINGLE THING.

WHAT DOES THE OLD MASTER LIKE?

WHAT MAKES HIM HAPPY?

I DON'T HAVE A CLUE.

I HAVE NO MEMORIES WITH HIM, AFTER ALL.

NOT LIKE TSUBAKI...

...WHO'S LIVED WITH HIM ALL THIS TIME.

HOW CAN I...

A MURDERER'S DAUGHTER.

...!

WHAT DO I DO?

TAKIGAWA-SA...

FWMP!

NAO-CHAN, CLOSE YOUR EYES.

FOCUS ON BREATHING NORMALLY.

WHEEEEW

WHAT ...?

JUST CLOSE THEM.

OH...

SSSSS

HAAA

THE SMELL OF TANGERINES...

...

I'M SORRY...

...FOR MAKING YOU WORRY.

DOESN'T IT SMELL NICE?

I JUST GOT THESE FROM A LOVELY LADY IN THE NEIGH-BORHOOD.

WE GOT A WHOLE BUNCH, SO LET'S JUICE THEM LATER.

...OF MAKING SWEETS.

I WAS GETTING MORE AND MORE SCARED...

THIS ISN'T LIKE ME AT ALL...

I'VE NEVER FELT SCARED FROM THIS BEFORE...

...AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

I SEE.

*SWEETS WERE ALWAYS THERE TO **HELP** ME.*

HUH...?

Really.

IT MEANS YOU'RE A NORMAL PERSON, AFTER ALL.

THAT'S A RELIEF.

YOU NEVER LET ANYTHING GET YOU DOWN.

SO SOMETIMES, I WONDERED IF YOU WERE A CYBORG OR SOMETHING.

YOU'RE ALLOWED TO ADMIT THAT YOU'RE FEELING ANXIOUS.

DON'T FORGET THERE'S MORE TO YOU...

...THAN JUST BEING OBSESSED WITH SWEETS.

...THAT'S ALL PART OF YOU, TOO.

...WHEN YOU CRY YOUR EYES OUT WATCHING AN ANIMAL SPECIAL...

WHEN YOU LOOK SO HAPPY EATING FRESHLY COOKED RICE...

...OR EVEN STOP MAKING SWEETS ALTOGETHER.

YOU'LL STILL BE YOU.

WHETHER YOU INHERIT KOGETSUAN...

...OR STAY AT HANAGASUMI...

THAT WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING.

...AND MAKE THE KIND OF SWEET THAT *YOU* LIKE.

LISTEN TO YOUR HEART...

SO...

...JUST BE CONFIDENT ABOUT WHATEVER YOU MAKE.

A SWEET THAT I LIKE...

SQUEEZE

WHY...

I'LL ALWAYS BE BY YOUR SIDE, EVEN IF NO ONE ELSE IS.

...ALWAYS KNOW THE WORDS I NEED MOST, TAKIGAWA-SAN?

WHY DO YOU...

CAN'T YOU TELL?

IT'S BECAUSE...

...YOU MAKE ME WANT TO.

HEY, NAO-CHAN.

ONCE YOUR DREAM COMES TRUE...

...AND EVERYTHING IS OVER WITH...

...I WANT YOU TO MARRY ME.

I WANT YOU TO MARRY ME...

Chapter 52 *The Final Night*

SOMEDAY, WHEN YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GOAL...

...YOU MIGHT DISAPPEAR FROM MY SIDE, NAO-CHAN.

HAVING SPENT...

THE LAST THREE YEARS WITH YOU...

...THERE'S BEEN SOME-THING ON MY MIND.

THAT THOUGHT...

...MADE ME SHUDDER.

I REALIZED I DON'T WANT TO SURRENDER YOU TO ANYONE.

I'M SORRY THIS IS SO SUDDEN.

YOU HAVE OTHER THINGS TO DEAL WITH RIGHT NOW.

GET SOME REST TODAY, OKAY?

TUNK

I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW HOW I FEEL.

ONCE YOU'VE FIGURED EVERYTHING ELSE OUT, I HOPE YOU'LL THINK IT OVER.

HE WANTS TO MARRY ME...?

I NEVER KNEW TAKIGAWA-SAN THOUGHT OF ME THAT WAY...

SCRUNCH

キュ...

KATUNK

...TAKIGAWA-SAN HAD TO SELL OFF A LOT OF EXPENSIVE ANTIQUES.

I HEARD THAT IN ORDER TO SET UP THIS SHOP...

Sign: Hanagasumi

...EVER SINCE THAT DAY.

...BUT HE'S STUCK BY ME ALL THIS TIME!

HE MUST HAVE GOTTEN A LOT OF BACKLASH FROM HIS RELATIVES AND THOSE CLOSE TO THEM...

IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD.

I WANT YOU TO MARRY ME.

...

Sign: Kogetsuan

SHIORI-SAN.

NGH...

ALL WE CAN DO IS WATCH.

YOU'LL JUST GET IN HIS WAY.

THE TWO OF THEM AGAINST EACH OTHER.

THIS IS BETWEEN TSUBAKI-SAN AND NAO-SAN.

JUST WATCH...

Sign: Hanagasumi

花かすみ

CLATTER

WELCOME TO HANA-GASUMI.

CAN I GET THE *WAGASHI* OF THE SEASON FOR HERE, PLEASE?

WHY ARE YOU...?

J...

JOJIMA-KUN.

BOW

JOJIMA-KU—

JOJIMA-KUN...

THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT YOUR SWEETS, NAO-SAN.

IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE'VE HAD A PROPER TALK...

JEEZ, YOU'RE NOT KIDDING, ARE YOU?

I CAN GET YOU AS MANY AS YOU'D LIKE.

HUH...?

I'LL GET YOU SOME MORE TEA, TOO.

EATING ONE... ALWAYS MAKES ME WANT TO EAT ANOTHER.

THERE'S NOTHING GOING ON BETWEEN THEM.

TSUBAKI-SAN AND SHIORI-SAN...

THERE'S NO BABY, AND I DOUBT THEY'RE GETTING MARRIED.

...

...AFTER YOU LEFT KOGETSUAN...

YOU KNOW...

...I WAS SO SURE YOU WERE HAPPY SOMEWHERE, MAKING YOUR FAVORITE SWEETS.

...AND I HAVE SOME IDEA OF WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH.

I LOOKED INTO IT A BIT...

IF...

...YOU END UP LOSING ON THE NIGHT OF THE *JOYASAI*.

...WHAT THEN, NAO-SAN?

ARE YOU...

...GOING TO SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE CURSING KOGETSUAN?

HERE.

THAT SWEET...

RUSTLE

I MADE THESE FOR YOU. I HOPE YOU EAT THEM.

...REALLY WAS DELICIOUS.

WARABI MOCHI...

TUNK

JOJIMA-KUN'S ALREADY LOOKING FORWARD...

IT'S MY DREAM.

...WITHOUT TURNING BACK.

ONCE YOU'VE FIGURED EVERY-THING ELSE OUT, I HOPE YOU'LL THINK IT OVER.

IF YOU END UP LOSING, WHAT THEN?

I...

OH?

WHERE'S TSUBAKI-SAN?

OF COURSE. IT'S ALREADY THE 29TH...

HE WENT TO OYAMA SHRINE TO PRAY.

Sign: Oyama Shrine

GIVE ME ONE NIGHT OF YOUR TIME, TSUBAKI.

JUST ONE NIGHT...

TONIGHT AT NINE...

...I'LL BE WAITING AT YOROZURO.

...

THE SNOW ISN'T GOING TO LET UP.

THAT'S AN INN IN NAGAMACHI...

YOROZURO...

WE HAVE TO BE PREPARED, WHATEVER THE OUTCOME.

Sign: Yorozuro

SST

I WANTED TO SEE THE MOON...

IT JUST KEEPS FALLING...

...BECAUSE TONIGHT'S THE LAST FULL MOON OF THE YEAR.

...

YOU CALLED ME HERE TO TELL ME *THAT*?

WHEN I WAS LITTLE...

WHEN I LIVED AT KOGE-TSUAN...

...I SPENT A LOT OF TIME GAZING OUT OF THE WINDOW LIKE THIS.

THAT...

...MADE ME SO, SO HAPPY.

...AND WAVE AT ME.

SOMETIMES, YOU'D COME OVER FROM THE MAIN HOUSE...

BACK THEN...

...I LOVED YOU SO MUCH.

WHEN I REMEMBER THAT...

...I CAN'T STOP...

...THE UGLY EMOTIONS FROM TAKING OVER.

...THAT MEMORY ALWAYS REMINDS ME OF ANOTHER.

BUT...

THE MOMENT WHEN YOU POINTED YOUR FINGER AT MOMMA.

I LOVE HIM...

...BUT I CAN'T FORGIVE HIM.

NO MATTER WHO WINS...

...THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW...

WILL BE THE END FOR US.

JUST FOR TONIGHT...

...I WANT YOU TO BE WITH ME, ONE LAST TIME.

I'M PUTTING AN END TO IT.

NO

I'LL PUT IT ALL BEHIND...

MY FEELINGS FOR TSUBAKI...

...OUR STRUGGLE OVER KOGETSUAN...

SHF
IVIII

FWUMP

FWUMP

FWUMP

SST

AND YOU AREN'T?

...

YOU REALLY ARE HORRIBLE.

Ba-dump

...!

I SWORE THAT DAY...

...THAT I WOULD MAKE MOMMA'S UNFULFILLED DREAM COME TRUE.

THAT I'D NEVER WISH FOR ANYTHING ELSE.

BUT, ONE LAST TIME...

...!

JUST FOR NOW...

...I WANT TO FORGET WHO I AM AND BE IN TSUBAKI'S ARMS.

HUFF

NN.

MME...

HUFF

IT'S SO WARM...

SUCH A HAPPY, DREAMLIKE FEELING.

...LIKE BEING IN A PATCH OF SUNSHINE.

THAT'S...

...!

HF...

...THE KIND OF SWEET I WANT TO MAKE.

ALL I CAN HEAR...

...IS OUR BREATHING.

HUFF
はっ

I'M BURNING THIS MOMENT...

HUFF
はっ

...INTO MY HEART.

TSUBAKI...

EVERY MINUTE, EVERY SECOND... EVERYTHING.

Sign: Yorozuro

TUNK

!

...

TOMORROW IS THE JOYASAI.

Sign: Kogetsuan

THE DAY...

...THAT WILL DETERMINE...

...OUR DESTINY.

Chapter 53 *The Joyasai*

Thank you so much,
Umesakura-sama,
Doi-sama,
Naganawa-sama,
Miyaji-sama,
Morizane-sama,
and my editor
Chikada-sama

Thank you so much
for your comments and
letters of encouragement!!

Natsumi Ando
c/o Kodansha BE · LOVE
2-12-21 Otowa, Bunkyo-ku,
Tokyo 112-8001

DECEMBER 31ST

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Sign: Kogetsuan

IT'S A PASSAGE FOR THE GODS, AFTER ALL.

I GET SO NERVOUS SETTING UP KOGETSUAN'S *JOYA* LANTERNS, NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I DO IT.

IS THAT ALL OF THEM?

THERE.

YES.

WHO DO YOU SUPPOSE THE GODS WILL SMILE UPON?

TSUBAKI-SAN...

...AND NAO-SAN.

IF TSUBAKI-SAN LOSES...

...HE'LL LEAVE THE SHOP, WON'T HE?

HE WON'T LOSE.

TSUBAKI-SAN KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS SHOP, INSIDE AND OUT.

I DON'T THINK NAO-SAN STANDS A CHANCE.

EVEN YOU LOOK ANXIOUS TODAY, PROPRIETRESS.

...I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON.

BUT...

YOU DIDN'T TRY TO SABOTAGE THE CONTEST.

OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO GLARE LIKE THAT.

REALLY.

I ONLY ACCOMPANIED NAO-CHAN HERE.

I HAVE FAITH THAT MY SON WILL WIN.

DON'T DO ANYTHING.

GET INVOLVED, AND I'LL FORFEIT IMMEDIATELY.

NOT TO SHIORI-SAN OR TO NAO.

TAKIGAWA...

...SAN?

BOOONG

BOOONG

YOU KNOW HIM?

...

YES.

SORT OF...

PLEASE
EXCUSE ME.

TODAY...

...I SWORE I WOULDN'T MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH TSUBAKI.

...HOUR OF THE BOAR.

IT'S THIS YEAR'S VERY LAST...

IT'S TIME TO TRY BOTH OF YOUR CONFECTIONS.

ME FIRST...?

SAKURA.

LET'S START WITH YOURS.

SHF

1!°
++
!
FWISH

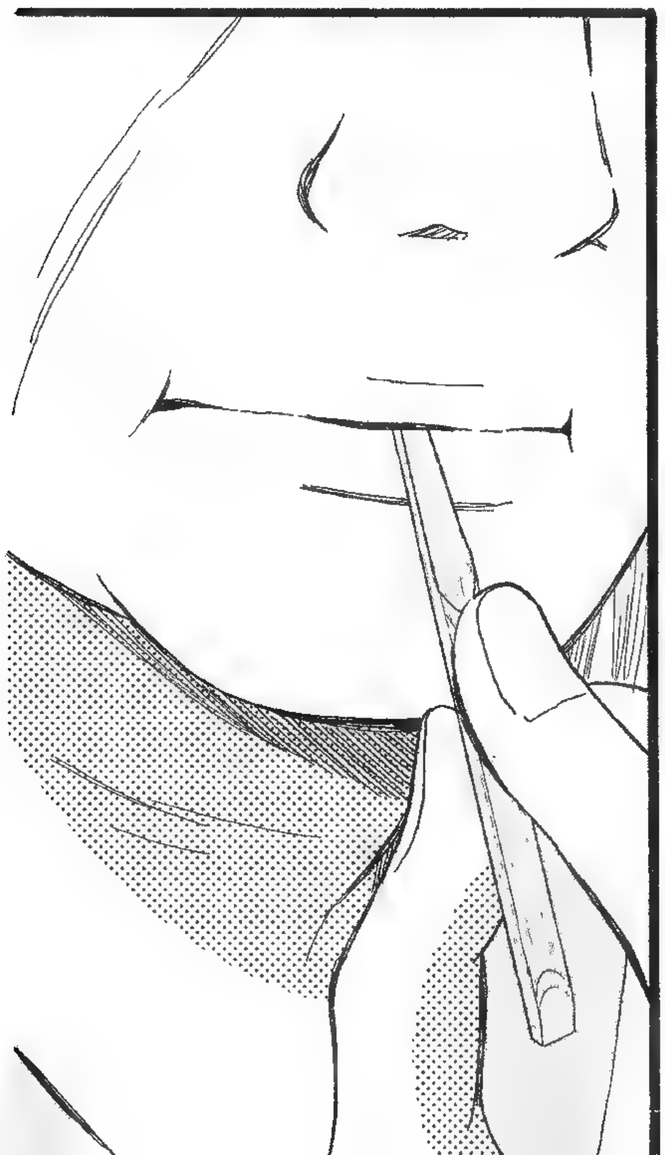
HERE IT IS.

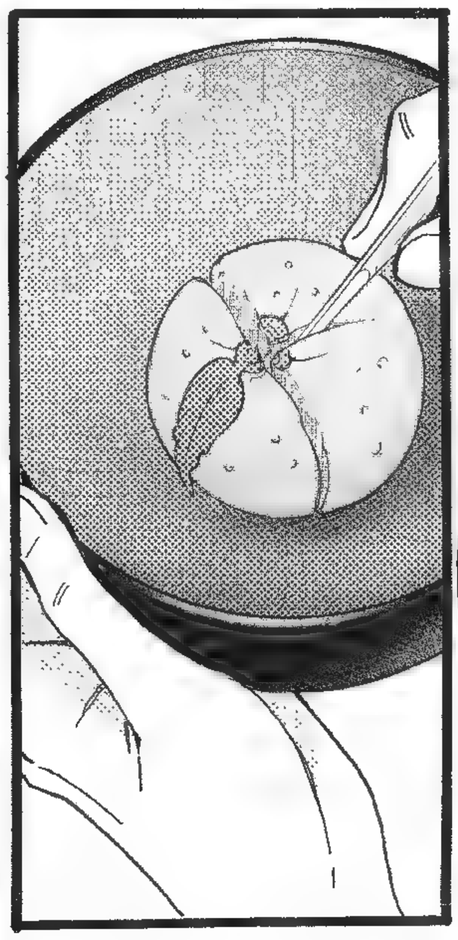
A BOWL...?

IS IT SOME KIND OF SWEET SOUP?

THIS SCENT...

WHIFF





JO-NAMA-
GASHI...
PLEASE,
GIVE IT
A TRY.
...WITH A YUZU
MOTIF.

SHE ADDED CHOPPED PEEL?

PEEL...

THAT'S NOTHING UNUSUAL...

THIS...

... IS *YUZU* PEEL.

...IS COMPLETELY ENCASED IN IT.

THE BEAN PASTE...

"WHOLE"?

INSIDE THAT TINY CONFECTION...?

YOU PUT THE *YUZU* PEEL IN WHOLE?!

...FILLED IT WITH BEAN PASTE...

FIRST, I SCOOPED OUT THE INSIDE TO MAKE THE PEEL AS THIN AS POSSIBLE.

THEN I MARINATED IT IN SYRUP...

I USED A MINIATURE *HIMEYUZU* VARIETY.

...AND ENCASED IT IN *NERIKIRI* FOR A BEAUTIFUL FINISH.

Bean paste

Yuzu peel

Nerikiri paste

THE TEXTURE OF THE PEEL IS SOFT AND ALMOST MELTS IN THE MOUTH...

AND ENCLOSING IT IN THE BOWL MAKES THE SCENT LAST...

...WITHOUT SACRIFICING THE FLAVOR...

...OR GETTING IN THE WAY OF THE BEAN PASTE.

...TELLING ME JUST HOW MUCH...

...YOU LOVE *WAGASHI.*

A COMFORTING SCENT...

...THAT LINGERS ON.

IT SPEAKS...

...TO ALL THE FIVE SENSES...

THIS CONFECTION...

...HAS SUCH WARMTH.

FLICKER

ポウ...

IT MAKES ME WANT TO BASK...

...IN ITS WARMTH, FOREVER...

HEY, MOMMA?

WHY DOES THE NICE SMELL OF SWEETS DISAPPEAR SO QUICKLY?

MOMMA.

BECAUSE IT GOES IN YOUR TUMMY, I GUESS.

SOMEDAY, LET'S COME UP WITH...

...A SWEET THAT DOESN'T MAKE YOU SAD LIKE THAT.

YEAH.

IT'S A PROMISE!

YOU AND ME, TOGETHER.

I ENJOYED THAT VERY MUCH.

A PROMISE...

I WAS ABLE TO MAKE IT PROPERLY.

THANK YOU.

KA-KLNK

...LET'S HAVE YOURS.

NEXT...

A SWEET THAT I CAN TRULY SAY I LIKE...

CLATTER

IT'S A *TSUBAKI MOCHI.*

IT EVEN APPEARS IN THE TALE OF GENJI...

A VERY SIMPLE DOMYOJI *BETWEEN TWO CAMELLIA LEAVES...*

A CONFECTION THAT'S SUPPOSEDLY THE ORIGIN OF JAPANESE WAGASHI.

TSUBAKI MOCHI...

...EACH LEAF IS ARRANGED WITH METICULOUS CARE.

...

BUT...

I CAN'T BELIEVE...

...TSUBAKI DECIDED TO MAKE SOMETHING SO SIMPLE.

THE GLOSS AND SHEEN OF THE DOMYOJI ARE CAPTIVATING.

IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL...

...

HOW...?

...TASTE.

THIS...

IT'S...

HOW DO YOU KNOW...

...THE VERY FIRST SWEET MY FATHER TAUGHT ME HOW TO MAKE.

...THIS FLAVOR?

SEE, WE STEAM OUR DOMYOJI WITH A BIT OF BITE LEFT IN IT.

TRAIN YOURSELF TO "FEEL" WHEN IT'S DONE.

THEN A TINY PINCH OF SALT.

THE BEAN PASTE SHOULD BE SMOOTH AND FIRM.

NEVER FORGET EXACTLY HOW FIRM IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE.

...TAUGHT MY SON.

WHAT I...

IT'S A TASTE TO TREASURE.

ONE THAT I WOULD NEVER FORGET.

...WHEN YOU WERE VERY LITTLE.

YOU MUST HAVE LEARNED THIS...

HOW COULD THIS POSSIBLY BE SO PERFECT...?

I'M SURE...

WAGASHI CONVEYS MORE THAN JUST ITS FLAVOR.

IT REMINDS YOU OF THE THINGS YOU SAW WHEN YOU ATE IT...

...THE FEELINGS YOU FELT...

"TO TREASURE"...

...THAT MUST BE THE SAME FOR GRANDFATHER, TOO.

...THAT EXISTED ONCE UPON A TIME.

...AND THE TENDER MEMORIES...

THAT'S THE TRULY IMPORTANT THING THAT HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE GENERATIONS...

BOTH OF YOU...

...

...MADE REMARKABLE CONFECTIONS.

THE...

...HARD-HEARTED OLD MASTER...

...AND ALLOW ME SOME TIME TO CONTEM-PLATE.

LET ME TAKE ONE MORE EACH...

TSUBAKI, IN THE ROOM ON THE RIGHT...

...AND SAKURA, IN THE ROOM ON THE LEFT...

GO WAIT IN THOSE ROOMS.

I WILL OPEN THE DOOR...

...TO THE ONE WHO MADE THE CONFECTION I CHOOSE.

TUNK
パタン

TUNK
パタン

I DOUBT YOU HEARD ANYTHING EAVESDROPPING FROM THERE.

...

ｽﾝ

I'LL OFFER YOU A CHANCE.

...!

WHICH CONFECTION IS WORTHY OF THE HEIR?

MAKE YOUR CHOICE.

IT'S A TOKEN OF RESPECT FOR KOGETSUAN'S PROPRIETRESS.

WH...

YOU WOULD NEVER TRULY ACCEPT A DECISION I MADE ON MY OWN.

WHAT ARE YOU...

I JUST HAVE TO CHOOSE THE SWEET TSUBAKI MADE.

MAYBE THIS IS MY CHANCE.

OF COURSE.

I'LL BE ABLE TO TELL.

THAT'S EASY.

I CHOOSE THIS ONE.

GOOOONG

SST...

...LOSING SOMETHING PRECIOUS...

ゴーン

GOOOONG

...THAT WE PUT OUR FAITH IN.

VICTORY WILL OPEN A PATH TO THE FUTURE.

GOOOONG

DEFEAT WILL MEAN...

GOOOONG

I GRANT KOGETSUAN...

...TO YOU.

To be continued in Volume 12.

Next Volume Preview

THE GODDESS DELIVERS A NEW DESTINY!

A story of love, fate, and *wagashi*
Something's Wrong With Us

12

Natsumi Ando

VOLUME 12

Coming soon!

Translation Notes

wagashi, cover flap
Traditional Japanese confections.

Tsubaki-san, page 14
In very formal households like the Takatsuki family, the mother will often address her children with the "-san" honorific. "-san" is akin to "Mr., Ms., Mx." etc. The proprietress generally addresses Tsubaki as "Tsubaki-san," but occasionally drops the honorific when not in front of others.

Joyasai, page 41
The New Year's Eve tradition where people go to pray at temples to cleanse themselves of all of their vices to start a fresh new year with a clean slate. The temples are open all night and ring their large temple bells 108 times at midnight to cleanse human souls of all their worldly desires.

shiromuku, page 50
A special bridal kimono with a concealing headdress that is completely white.

Oyama Shrine, page 95
A Shinto shrine in Kanazawa that was built in 1599 in dedication to the first feudal lord of the Kaga Domain. It has a very distinctive gate, added in 1875 by a Dutch architect, that incorporates Japanese, Chinese, and European religious elements.

joya lanterns, page 122
Traditionally, it was believed that a deity designated for that year would visit every household and business from New Year's Eve to New Year's Day. The row of lanterns leads up to the entrance, making sure the deity does not get lost on the way. This is not a custom anymore in most places, but may still be done by traditional establishments with long histories.

hour of the boar, page 128
9-11 PM in the old Japanese time system. Traditionally, one day was split into 12 "hours" that were the equivalent of two modern hours, each assigned with an animal from the Chinese zodiac.

jo-namagashi, page 132
Fresh, artistic *wagashi* that are made with specific (usually seasonal) motifs.

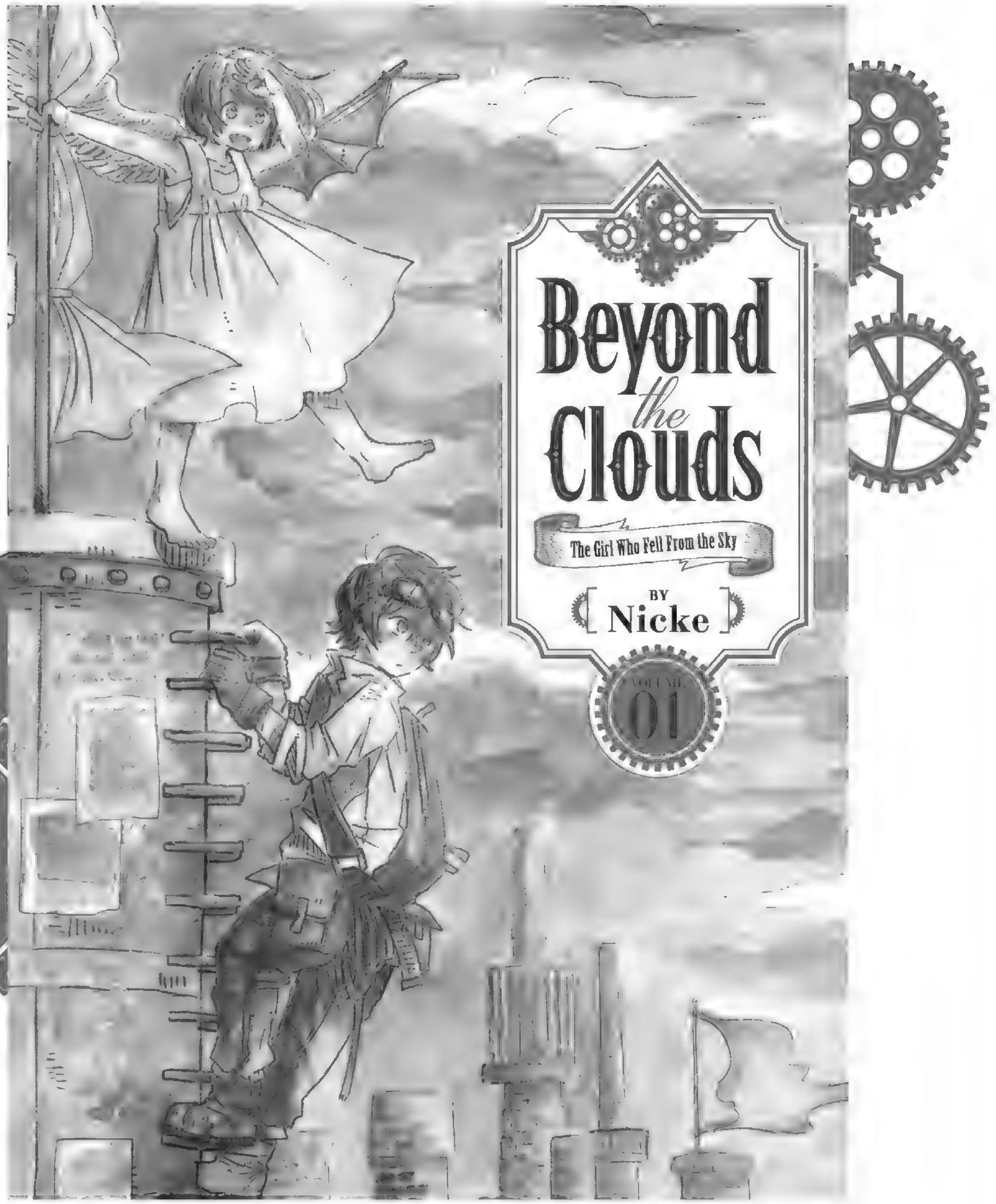
yuzu, page 132
Yuzu is a type of citrus fruit used for its pleasant aroma in both savory dishes and sweets. The fruit is associated with the winter since it is in season from late autumn to winter. It was also put in baths for the winter solstice because it was thought to ward off evil and repel colds. That history, coupled with its bright yellow color, gives the *yuzu* an image of comfort and warmth.

nerikiri, page 134
The most iconic type of *jo-namagashi,* made with a mix of white bean paste and glutinous rice flour. The paste can be colored and shaped into all kinds of seasonal motifs.

The Tale of Genji, page 140
The oldest known work of classic Japanese literature, written by Murasaki Shikibu, a noblewoman of the early 11th century. The fact that *tsubaki mochi* are mentioned in this novel means that they have been around for a very long time indeed.

domyoji, page 140
A type of mochi that uses glutinous rice that has been steamed, dried, and coarsely ground. The rice bits are then steamed again to create a moist, sticky mochi with a distinctively chunky texture. *Domyoji* usually include a ball of bean paste inside.

Young characters and steampunk setting, like *Howl's Moving Castle* and *Battle Angel Alita*



Beyond the Clouds © 2018 Nicke / Ki-oon

A boy with a talent for machines and a mysterious girl whose wings he's fixed will take you beyond the clouds! In the tradition of the high-flying, resonant adventure stories of Studio Ghibli comes a gorgeous tale about the longing of young hearts for adventure and friendship!

One of CLAMP's biggest hits returns in this definitive, premium, hardcover 20th anniversary collector's edition!

"A wonderfully entertaining story that would be a great installment in anybody's manga collection."
— Anime News Network

"CLAMP is an all-female manga-creating team whose feminine touch shows in this entertaining, sci-fi soap opera."
— Publishers Weekly

Chobits © CLAMP·ShigatsuTsuitachi CO.,LTD./Kodansha Ltd.

Poor college student Hideki is down on his luck. All he wants is a good job, a girlfriend, and his very own "persocom"—the latest and greatest in humanoid computer technology. Hideki's luck changes one night when he finds Chi—a persocom thrown out in a pile of trash. But Hideki soon discovers that there's much more to his cute new persocom than meets the eye.

KC KODANSHA COMICS

A SMART, NEW ROMANTIC COMEDY FOR FANS OF *SHORTCAKE CAKE* AND *TERRACE HOUSE*!

Living-Room Matsunaga-san © Keiko Iwashita / Kodansha Ltd.

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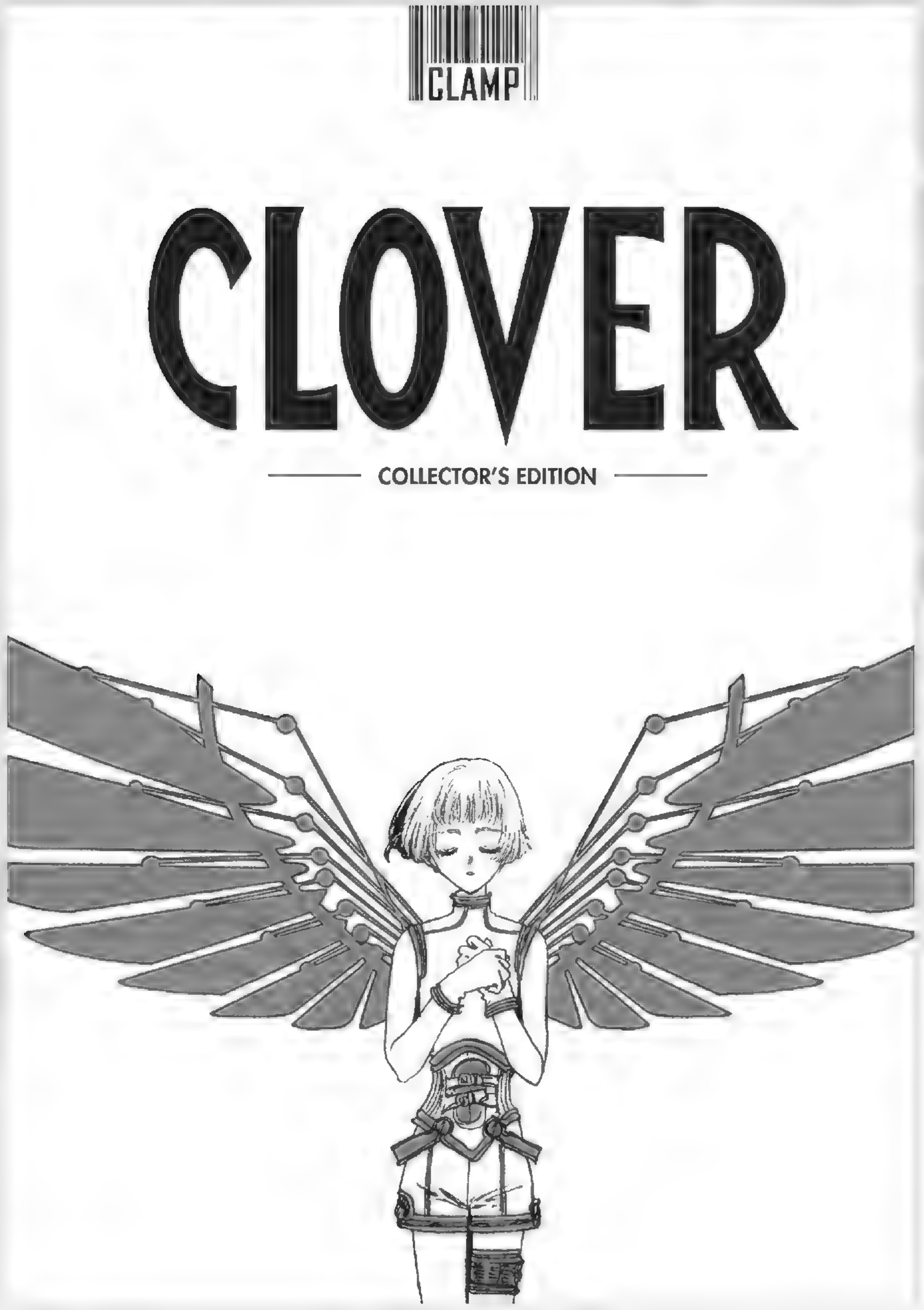
A romance manga starring high school girl Meeko, who learns to live on her own in a boarding house whose living room is home to the odd (but handsome) Matsunaga-san. She begins to adjust to her new life away from her parents, but Meeko soon learns that no matter how far away from home she is, she's still a young girl at heart — especially when she finds herself falling for Matsunaga-san.

The art-deco cyberpunk classic from the creators of *xxxHOLiC* and *Cardcaptor Sakura*!

"Starred Review. This experimental sci-fi work from CLAMP reads like a romantic version of *AKIRA*."
—Publishers Weekly



Su was born into a bleak future, where the government keeps tight control over children with magical powers—codenamed "Clovers." With Su being the only "four-leaf" Clover in the world, she has been kept isolated nearly her whole life. Can ex-military agent Kazuhiko deliver her to the happiness she seeks? Experience the complete series in this hardcover edition, which also includes over twenty pages of ravishing color art!

KC KODANSHA COMICS

PERFECT WORLD

Rie Aruga

An office party reunites Tsugumi with her high school crush Itsuki. He's realized his dream of becoming an architect, but along the way, he experienced a spinal injury that put him in a wheelchair. Now Tsugumi's rekindled feelings will butt up against prejudices she never considered — and Itsuki will have to decide if he's ready to let someone into his heart...

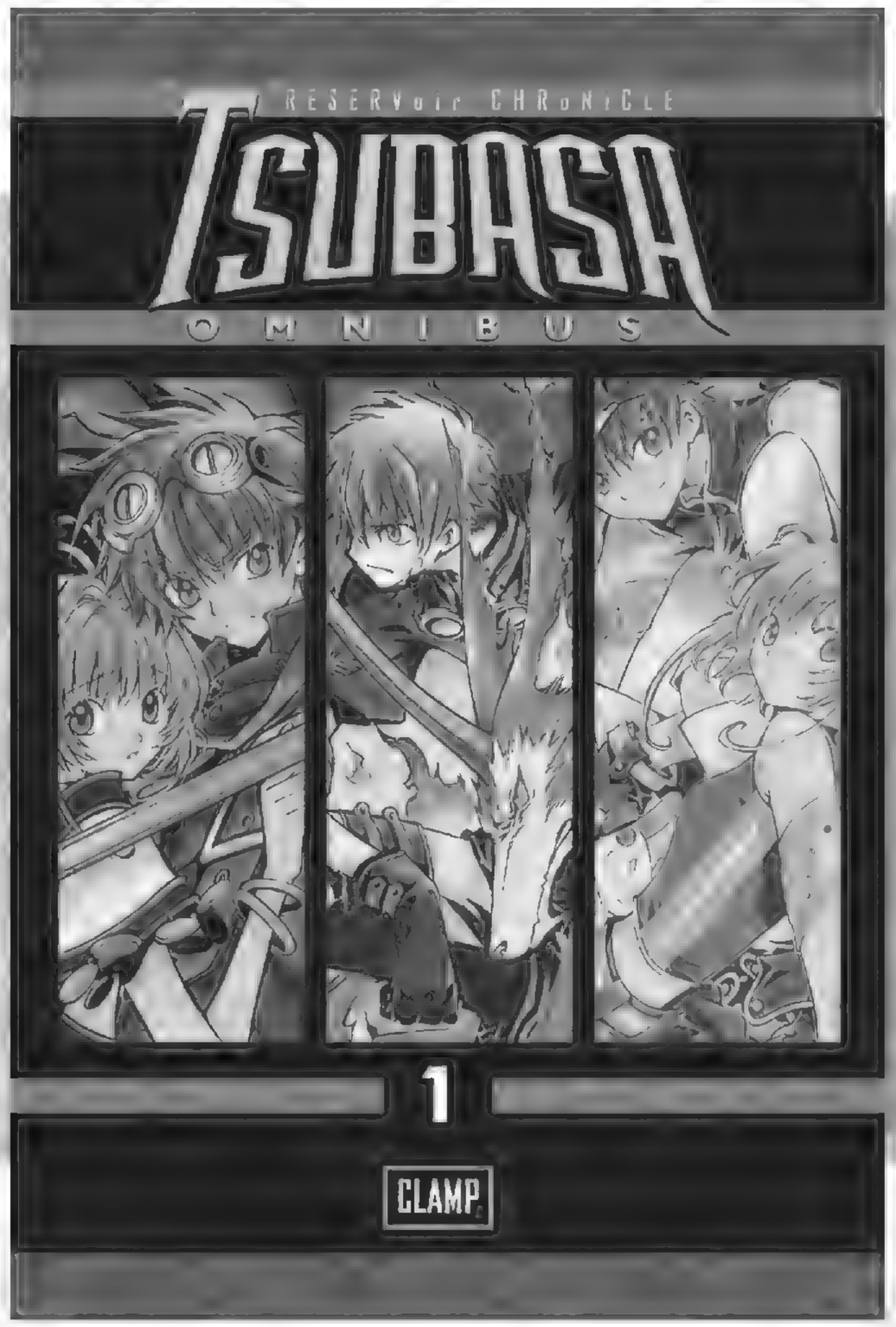
"Depicts with great delicacy and courage the difficulties some with disabilities experience getting involved in romantic relationships... Rie Aruga refuses to romanticize, pushing her heroine to face the reality of disability. She invites her readers to the same tasks of empathy, knowledge and recognition."
—Slate.fr

"An important entry [in manga romance]... The emotional core of both plot and characters indicates thoughtfulness... [Aruga's] research is readily apparent in the text and artwork, making this feel like a real story."
—Anime News Network

KC KODANSHA COMICS

Perfect World © Rie Aruga/Kodansha Ltd.

The beloved characters from *Cardcaptor Sakura* return in a brand new, reimagined fantasy adventure!



"[*Tsubasa*] takes readers on a fantastic ride that only gets more exhilarating with each successive chapter." —Anime News Network

In the Kingdom of Clow, an archaeological dig unleashes an incredible power, causing Princess Sakura to lose her memories. To save her, her childhood friend Syaoran must follow the orders of the Dimension Witch and travel alongside Kurogane, an unrivaled warrior; Fai, a powerful magician; and Mokona, a curiously strange creature, to retrieve Sakura's dispersed memories!

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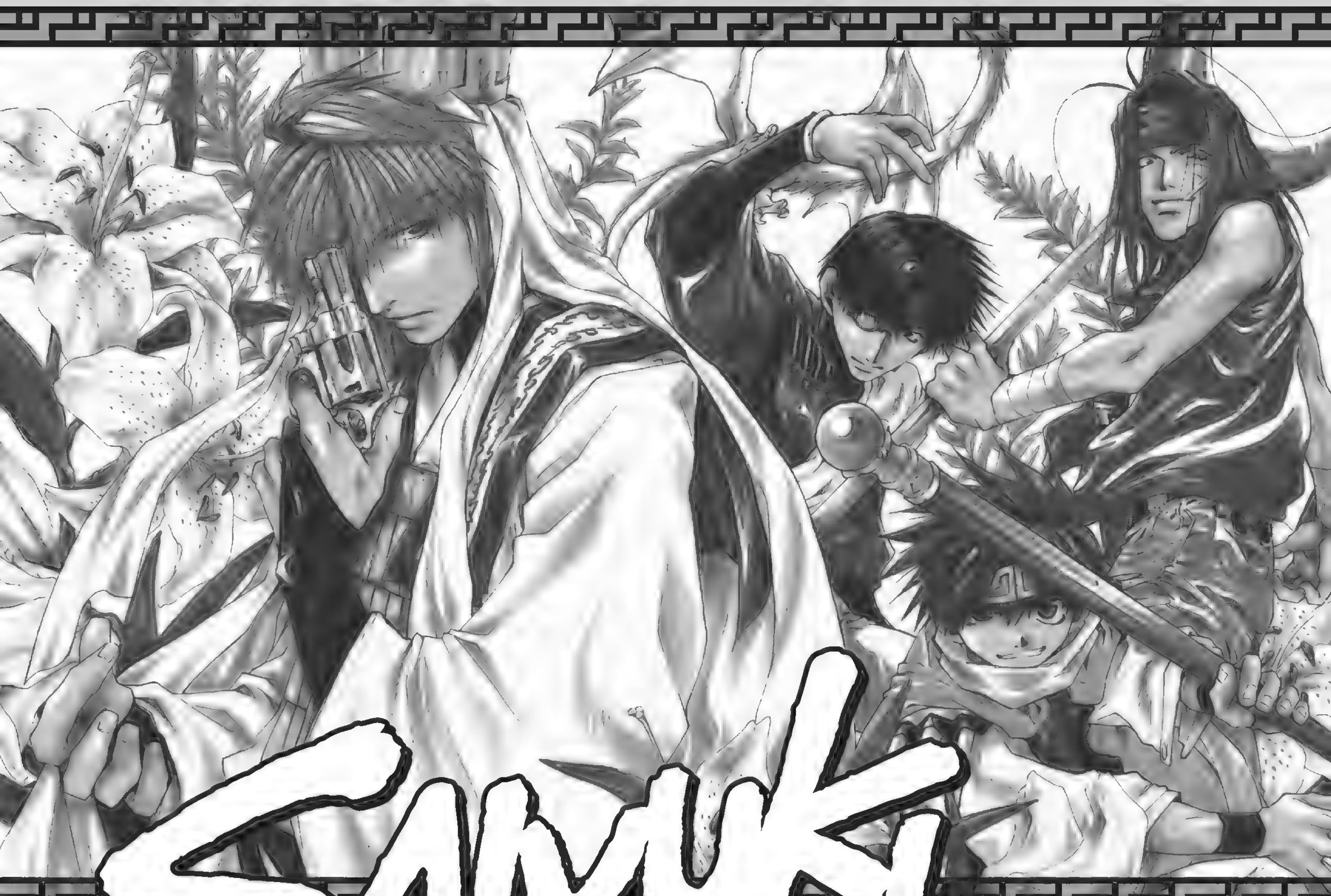
The boys are back, in 400-page hardcovers that are as pretty and badass as they are!



Saiyuki © Kazuya Minakura / Ichijinsha Inc.

KC KODANSHA COMICS

"AN EDGY COMIC LOOK AT AN ANCIENT CHINESE TALE." —YALSA

Genjo Sanzo is a Buddhist priest in the city of Togenkyo, which is being ravaged by yokai spirits that have fallen out of balance with the natural order. His superiors send him on a journey far to the west to discover why this is happening and how to stop it. His companions are three yokai with human souls. But this is no day trip — the four will encounter many discoveries and horrors on the way.

FEATURES NEW TRANSLATION, COLOR PAGES, AND BEAUTIFUL WRAPAROUND COVER ART!

The adorable new odd-couple cat comedy manga from the creator of the beloved *Chi's Sweet Home*, in full color!

Praise for *Chi's Sweet Home*

"Nearly impossible to turn away... a true all-ages title that anyone, young or old, cat lover or not, will enjoy. The stories will bring a smile to your face and warm your heart."

—School Library Journal

Sue & Tai-chan

Konami Kanata

Sue is an aging housecat who's looking forward to living out her life in peace... but her plans change when the mischievous black tomcat Tai-chan enters the picture! Hey! Sue never signed up to be a catsitter! *Sue & Tai-chan* is the latest from the reigning meow-narch of cute kitty comics, Konami Kanata.

Sue & Tai-chan © Konami Kanata/Kodansha Ltd.

KC KODANSHA COMICS

THE SWEET SCENT OF LOVE IS IN THE AIR! FOR FANS OF OFFBEAT ROMANCES LIKE WOTAKOI

Sweat and Soap © Kintetsu Yamada / Kodansha Ltd.

In an office romance, there's a fine line between sexy and awkward... and that line is where Asako — a woman who sweats copiously — meets Koutarou — a perfume developer who can't get enough of Asako's, er, scent. Don't miss a romcom manga like no other!

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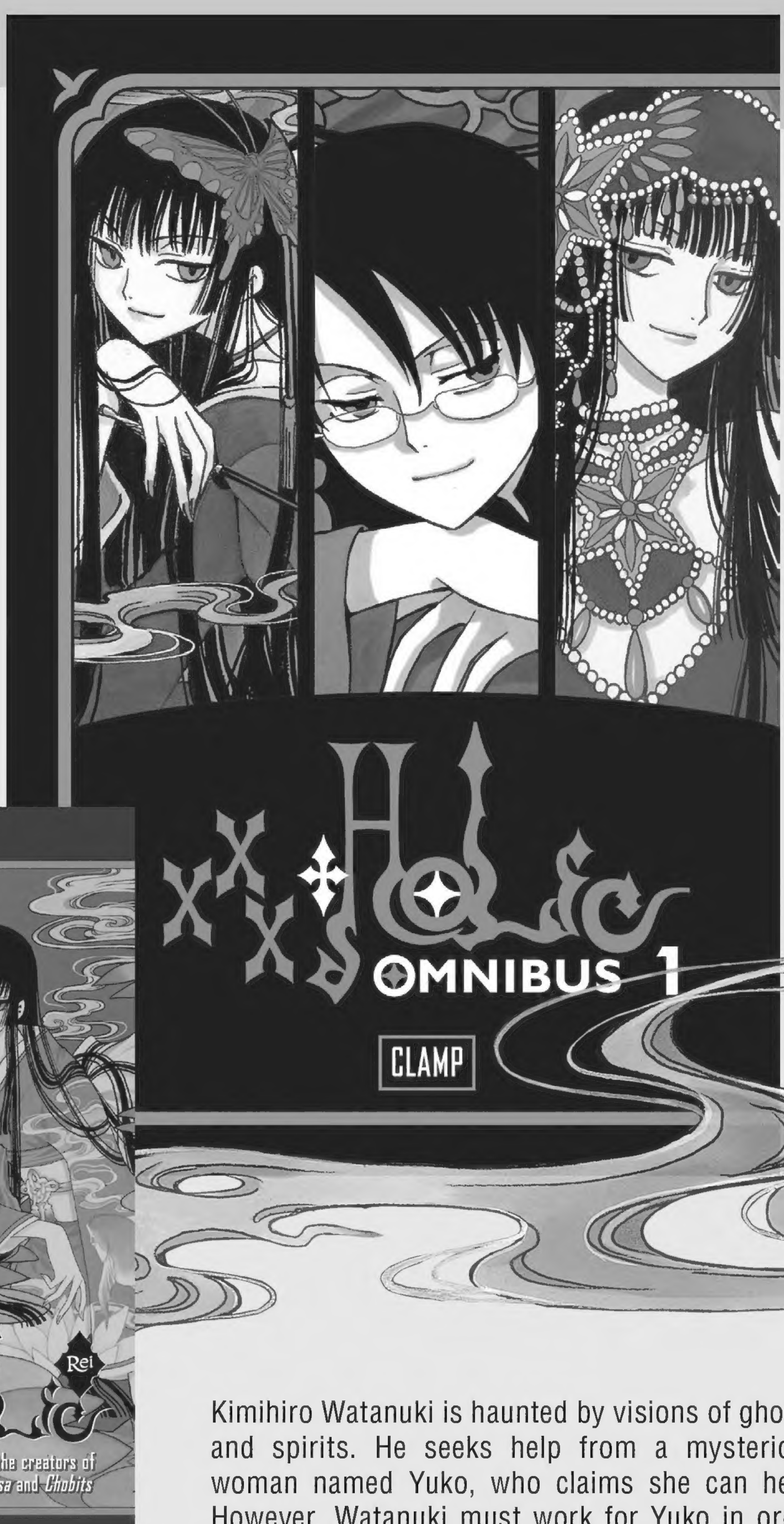
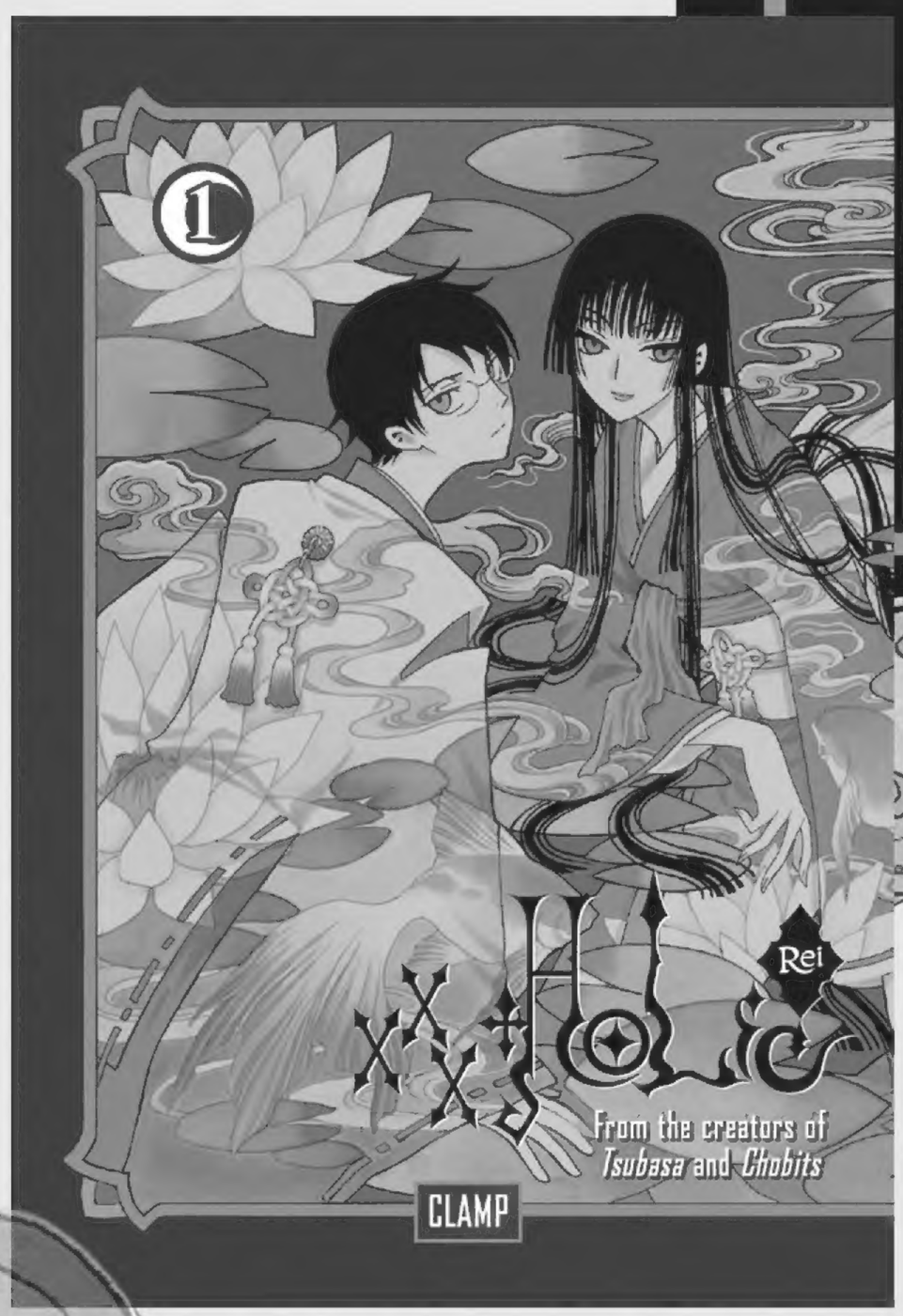
COMICS

"Clever, sassy, and original....*xxxHOLiC* has the inherent hallmarks of a runaway hit."
—NewType magazine

Beautifully seductive artwork and uniquely Japanese depictions of the supernatural will hypnotize CLAMP fans!



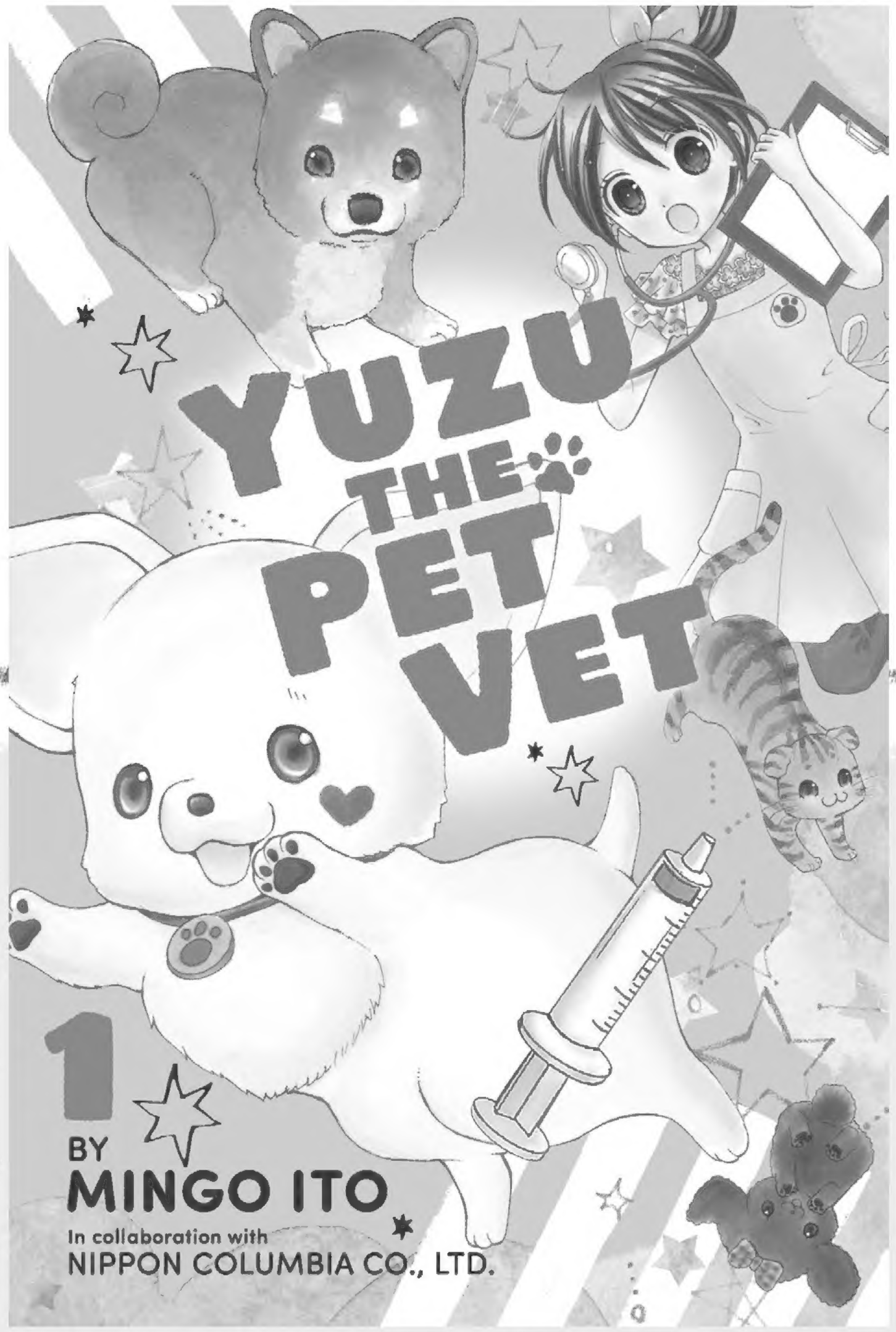


xxxHOLiC © CLAMP·ShigatsuTsuitachi CO.,LTD./Kodansha Ltd.
xxxHOLiC Rei © CLAMP·ShigatsuTsuitachi CO.,LTD./Kodansha Ltd.

Kimihiro Watanuki is haunted by visions of ghosts and spirits. He seeks help from a mysterious woman named Yuko, who claims she can help. However, Watanuki must work for Yuko in order to pay for her aid. Soon Watanuki finds himself employed in Yuko's shop, where he sees things and meets customers that are stranger than anything he could have ever imagined.

KC KODANSHA COMICS

CUTE ANIMALS AND LIFE LESSONS, PERFECT FOR ASPIRING PET VETS OF ALL AGES!



Yuzu the Pet Vet © Mingo Ito / NIPPON COLUMBIA CO., LTD./ Kodansha Ltd.

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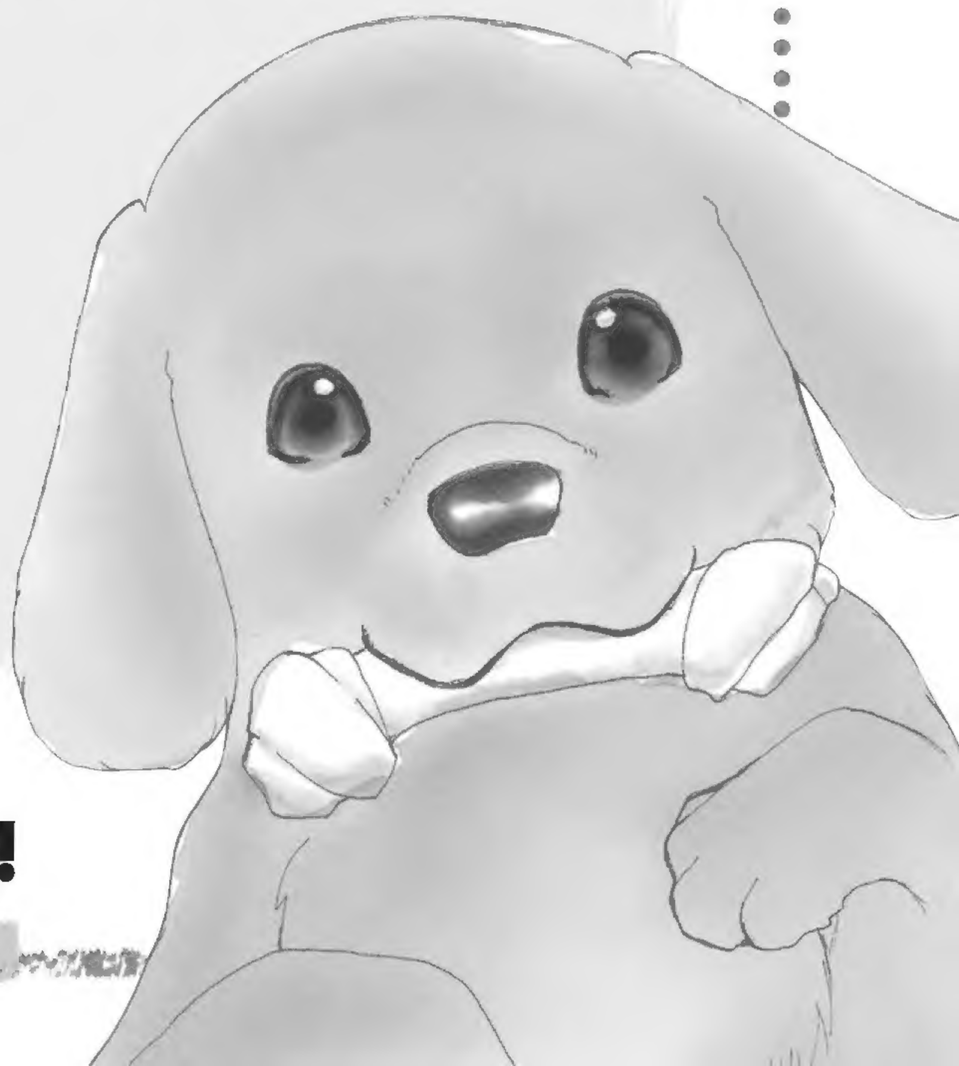
For an 11-year-old, Yuzu has a lot on her plate. When her mom gets sick and has to be hospitalized, Yuzu goes to live with her uncle who runs the local veterinary clinic. Yuzu's always been scared of animals, but she tries to help out. Through all the tough moments in her life, Yuzu realizes that she can help make things all right with a little help from her animal pals, peers, and kind grown-ups.

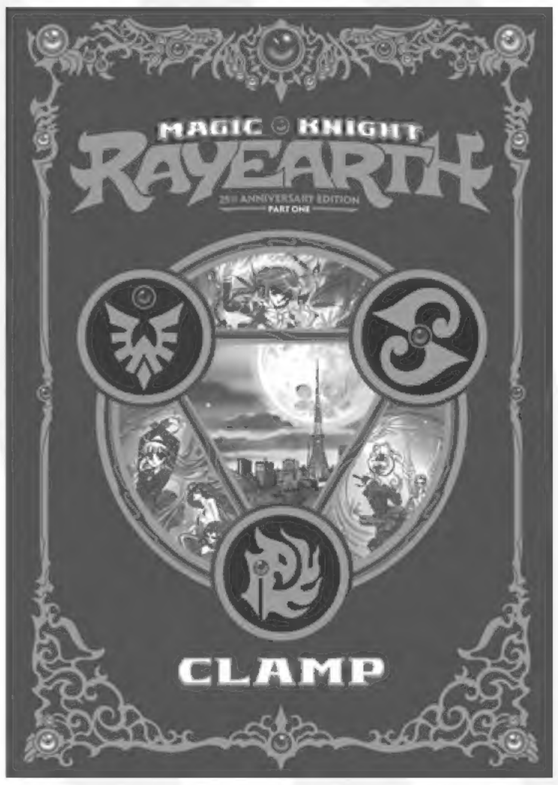
Every new patient is a furry friend in the making!



THE WORLD OF CLAMP!

Cardcaptor Sakura
Collector's Edition

Cardcaptor Sakura:
Clear Card



Magic Knight Rayearth
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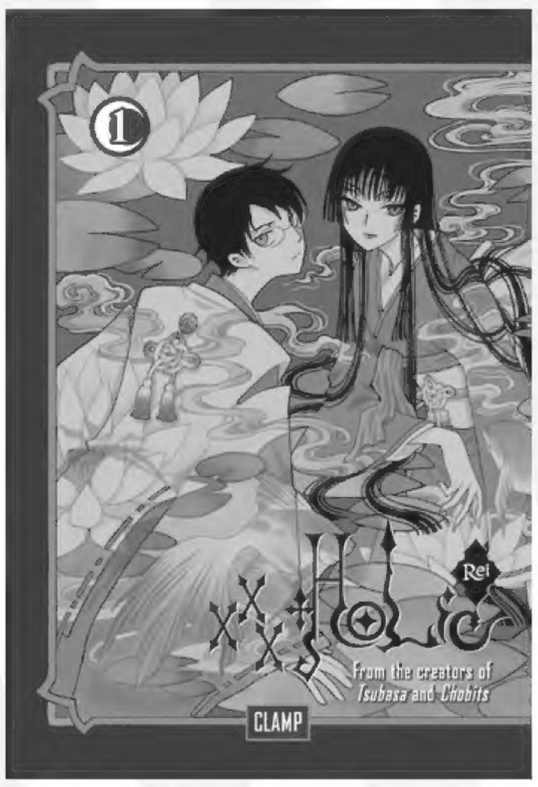
Chobits

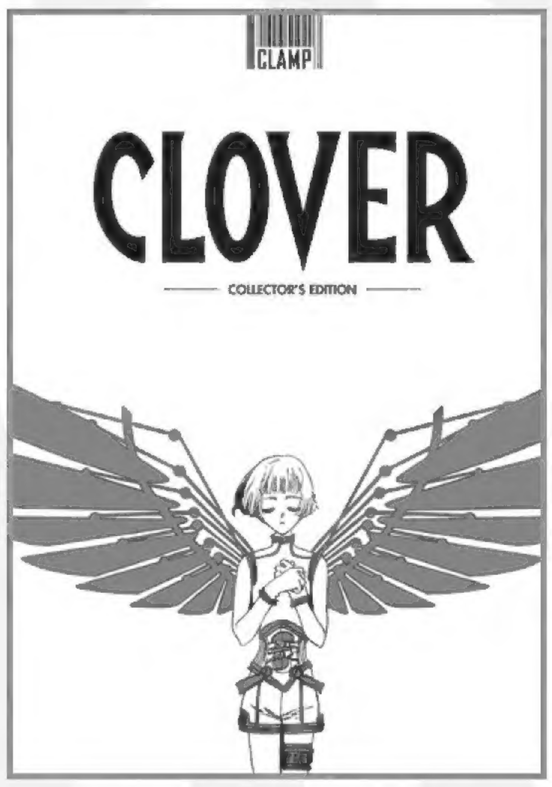
TSUBASA Omnibus

TSUBASA WoRLD CHRoNiCLE

xxxHOLiC Omnibus



xxxHOLiC Rei



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Something's Wrong With Us 11

Kodansha Digital Edition

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